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The following information largely confirms the predictions and regarding the 17 May demonstration in Vienna. Some of the information given below is overt; however it is felt that the report may be of interest, particularly in view of the indications it gives of a possible rift between the Soviets and the Austrian Communist Party.

1. On 17 May 1949, 14,200 persons marched to the Rathausplatz in formation. The total number present did not exceed 20,000. The Werkschutz did not participate, because the Soviet commander at Zistersdorf refused to supply transportation. Three thousand police were assigned to the immediate vicinity of the Rathaus. Some of these were transferred from regular posts in the Soviet Sector, without objection by the Soviets.*

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2. reported that according to Chernetz of the Socialist Party Committee, there are slight indications that the Soviets were not in complete sympathy with the Austrian Communist Party's reaction to the price-wage agreement and might attempt to modify the militancy of the Austrian Communists. It is reported that on 18 May, Communist Zucker-Schilling stated that the Austrian Communists realized that the Socialists had been forced into compromise by the coalition. Zucker-Schilling said that if the Socialist Party "did not collaborate with the Peoples Party, it would be much stronger". The sees this as a possible new attempt at conciliation by the Austrian Communists, and believes that Zucker-Schilling was uncomfortable about the Soviet attitude toward the Austrian Communist Party.

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3. In a Bezirk II meeting held to discuss the demonstration, Kesselbauer stated that the Central Committee had strongly criticized the organization and results of the demonstration. Section leaders and shop stewards were sharply attacked for their failure to arouse the workers' enthusiasm and to get them out in the streets. The Central Committee estimated that 30 to 40 percent of the workers who left the factories dropped out of the parade before it got to the Rathaus.** Kesselbauer said it was not expected that workers from non-USIA factories would take part, but it had been hoped that USIA firms would make a better showing. According to Fritz Gray, Central Committee employee, it is now rumored in the Committee that Friedl Fuernberg's program of strikes and disturbances will be replaced by a long range infiltration

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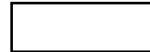
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policy sponsored by Ernst Fischer. It is not believed that the Austrian Communist Party has plans for any general strike or violent action, for the time being at least.

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*  Comment. The Soviets refused to allow such transfers at the time of the 10 May demonstration.

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**  reported that about 18,000 workers left the factories, and that 3,000 to 4,000 dropped out.

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